

The last part covers sexually transmitted diseases—from crabs to syphilis.

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Look at the style and the attractive way information is presented: "Ever wonder why crabs concentrate in the pubic area? One theory is that crabs like to have intercourse, just like the rest of us. To do it, the male and female crabs have to grasp adjoining hairs two millimeters apart, and the spacing of the hairs is just about right in the pubic area. Crabs cannot jump and they cannot reach very far even when they stand on their tip-toes, so the only way to catch them is for your pubic hair to come within about two millimeters' distance from someone else's pubic hair or from where someone else's pubic hair has recently been. When the crab's tummys are full, they do occasionally drop off into your underpants, sheets, or sleeping bag, and curl up for a little nap . . . if you use a crab victim's clothing, bed, or sleeping bag within a day after he did, you could get screwed even without having intercourse." And then the book goes on to outline the treatment in just as attractive and realistic a style (gamma benzene [Kwell] or A-200 pyrinate).

We suggest having a copy in your office among those books you use for education of patients, especially for those of you who see young people. And those connected with schools might want to consider using it more broadly. Your own children will adore you for giving it to them.

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A SURVEY OF HUMAN DISEASES—David T. Purtilo, MD, Department of Pathology, School of Medicine, University of Massachusetts. Addison-Wesley Publishing Company, Medical/Nursing Division, 2725 Sand Hill Road, Menlo Park, CA (94025), 1978. 453 pages, \$15.95.

How does one break down into neat, mutually exclusive categories the etiology, pathophysiology, pathology, diagnosis and treatment of the myriad diseases the human organism is heir to? Any breakdown must be arbitrary, and categories are bound to overlap. Consequently, criticism of any given breakdown is far simpler than coming up with a better alternative. In spite of the difficulty, however, there is a need for ". . . a textbook that surveys diseases and the pathophysiologic bases of diseases," which is the task Dr. Purtilo has set for himself. If he has not come up with the ideal solution to the impossible task of organizing a kaleidoscope in flux (I, for example, would have preferred juxtaposition of the two chapters that deal strictly with cells), he has, none the less, provided a logical, workable structure that allows complex subject matter to be presented in a clear, understandable way. Considering the vast area that falls under the title, *A Survey of Human Diseases*, the book strikes a remarkable balance between the too elementary and the too advanced. Aimed at an audience of nursing and allied health students, the presentation is straightforward and easy to follow without being condescending. In accomplishing this, the author presupposes some background in life science, while at the same time offering frequent explanations and definitions of concepts

and words that may be unfamiliar to his readers. If he errs, it is on the side of clarity, but this is far better than straining for pretentious academic "rigorousness."

A strong feature of the book is its format. Each chapter opens with a chapter outline and list of objectives. Since readers will come to the book with varying levels of preparation, they will be able to select quickly and easily from outline and objectives, those sections of the book which meet their individual needs.

The text that follows the objectives is divided into sections whose headings correspond to the chapter outlines. Each text opens with a brief introduction of one or two paragraphs, and closes with a short summary. Finally, a separate bibliography related to the specific chapter subject matter concludes each chapter.

One minor negative note perhaps needs mention. Occasionally in the objectives those ubiquitous vague words "to know" and "to understand" pop up. Possibly this is an attempt to escape from monotonous repetition of the more precise and measurable "to list, describe, compare, discuss, explain, name or state," but the cost of such variety is fuzziness.

In spite of this, and a few other even more minor quibbles, one is forced to admit that Dr. Purtilo has bitten off more than anyone can chew, and then has pretty thoroughly chewed it. His selection from the limitless array of human diseases is reasonable (he does not pretend to cover *every* disease, but then neither does the *Merck Manual*), his organization of the material is workable, and the writing is easy to follow, especially since it is aided by many clear drawings, photographs and photomicrographs.

Where such a survey of diseases can be squeezed into health curricula the book will serve as an excellent text. In those programs in which requirements have so pre-empted available academic units that there remains no room for such a survey, the book will be useful as additional reading for students, since its format makes it, to a large extent, self-instructional. Finally, it can serve as a valuable reference book for advanced students, providing them with an overview and refresher of areas outside the narrowing fields of their specializations.

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SYSTEMIC PATHOLOGY—Second Edition—Volume 3: ALIMENTARY SYSTEM—Edited by W. St C. Symmers, MD (Belfast), PhD (Birmingham), FRCP (London and Ireland), MRCP (Edinburgh), FRCPA, Professor of Histopathology in the University of London at Charing Cross Hospital Medical School; Honorary Consultant Pathologist, Charing Cross Hospital. Churchill Livingstone—Medical Division of Longman Inc., 19 West 44th St., New York City (10036), 1978. 465 pages, \$45.00.

Volume 3 of *Systemic Pathology*, edited by W. St C. Symmers, is purported to be an "authoritative" modern, comprehensive and well-illustrated account of pathology of diseases in man. This particular volume describes the diseases of the gastrointestinal tract, including mouth, accessory organs, teeth, oropharynx, stomach, esophagus, small intestine, large intestine, anal canal, appendix, peritoneum, liver, gallbladder, and bile ducts in the pancreas. The individual chapters are authored by nine different pathologists, alone or in combination. In spite of the diversity of authorship there is a significant uniformity to the text, to the style and to the presentations. In each particular segment the coverage is extensive and encyclopedic. The illustrations, in general, are of good quality, and represent both gross photographs and light micrographs of representative diseases. Unusual and rare